



UNICO NATIONAL

The Largest Italian American Service Organization in the United States
"Service Above Self"

September 9, 2008

As the Columbus Day / Week and Italian Heritage and Culture Month approach, we are charged with the responsibility of assuring active participation by Unicans wherever there is an event planned in a city or town in which we have a presence across the country. We should strive for a nationwide celebration of Columbus Day / Week events in the Italian American Community to promote the positive contributions that Italians and Italian Americans have made to our country and the world. Events such as wreath laying and flag raising ceremonies at Columbus monuments, community service awards, proclamations by governors, mayors and city councils should take place in the month of October. UNICO visibility should be at the forefront. This can be accomplished by the use of Chapter and District banners displayed at every event. We encourage that communities erect over head street banners bringing awareness to "October is Italian Heritage and Culture Month" and incorporating this theme nationally into related events.

We invite all UNICO members and their families to participate in this year's 64th Annual New York City Columbus Day Parade on **Monday, October 13, 2008**. This is our national flagship parade and the world's largest celebration of Italian-American culture. We will be joined by the Clifton High School Marching Band. This year's theme is "The Great White Fleet" and the Grand Marshal will be Admiral Edmund Giambastiani (ret). This is one parade you won't want to miss!

The parade marches up Fifth Avenue from 44th St. to 79th St. then turns right towards Third Avenue. The parade is a televised global event with millions of viewers and nearly one million spectators. And remember if you can't make it to the parade watch it on NBC affiliates and RAI Int'l, from 12 Noon to 3:00 PM.

A bus will be available, to and from New York City, for our members. The bus will leave the Fort Lee Recreation Center located at 1500 Stillwell Ave., Fort Lee at 11:00 AM sharp. Please contact Ralph Contini at (201) 960-7131 or raccpa1021@aol.com (subject parade) for any additional information.

On **Sunday, October 5th and Sunday October 12th**, a number of parades will take place. We urge all Unicans to participate. The Hackensack parade will be held on October 5th. The East Hanover, Nutley-Belleville, Hartford, Stamford, Chicago and the Ocean County Parades will be held on October 12th. We anticipate that a number of UNICO National officials will be in attendance at some of these events. We have made an effort to offer UNICO National's participation in as many events as possible.

We are asking for voluntary contributions from Chapters and individuals. **Please send your donations to the National office earmarked "Columbus Day Parade"**.

Please join in to "Celebrate October...Italian Heritage and Culture Month!"

Sincerely yours in UNICO,

Ralph A. Contini

Ralph A. Contini, National Columbus Day Chairman

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